

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 13143 01 OF 02 060909Z
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7663

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 13143

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

USEEC

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SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT JULY PLENARY SESSION: EC

COUNCIL PRESIDENT GENSCHER OUTLINES SIX-MONTH
PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT (EP) ON JULY 4, GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER BROADLY OUTLINED THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GERMAN
PRESIDENCY OF THE EC COUNCIL FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS,
EMPHASIZING THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS AND THE NEED
FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COOPERATION TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND STABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE WORLD
AT LARGE. HE SPOKE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF FREE TRADE AND
A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE MTN. GENSCHER SAID THAT
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 13143 01 OF 02 060909Z

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AT ITS BREMEN MEET-
ING JULY 6-7 WILL BE TO DEVELOP A COMMON ECONOMIC AND
MONETARY STRATEGY FOR THE FORTHCOMING BONN ECONOMIC
SUMMIT AND THEREAFTER. HE EMPHASIZED ALSO THAT THE
SECOND COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT SHOULD NOT SERVE AS AN
EXCUSE FOR WEAKENING IT. EP REACTION TO GENSCHER'S STATE-
MENT WAS MIXED, WITH MANY MP'S CALLING FOR SPECIFIC,

URGENT EC COUNCIL ACTION TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH. END
SUMMARY.

2. NOTING THAT THE EC IS GREATLY DEPENDENT ON CONTINUED FREEDOM OF TRADE, GENSCHER SAID THAT THE MAIN TASK BEFORE THE COMMUNITY IN THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS IS TO STEM AND REVERSE THE TIDE OF PROTECTIONISM. HE SAID THE COMMUNITY MUST ALSO BE WILLING AND READY TO ACCEPT STRUCTURAL CHANGES WHICH WILL ENABLE MEMBER STATES' ECONOMIES TO ADJUST TO FLUCTUATIONS IN WORLD TRADE. HE NOTED IT WILL BE THE AIM OF THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY TO FORMULATE IN BREMEN A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY AIMED AT BRINGING THE EC BACK TO STEADY GROWTH AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT. A COMMON STRATEGY, HE CONTINUED, "WILL ENABLE THE EC TO PUT FORWARD A UNITED POSITION AT THE IMPENDING BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT...AND TO MAKE FULL USE OF ITS ECONOMIC WEIGHT." HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A COMMON STRATEGY WILL REQUIRE: (A) A POLICY OF CONCERTED, STABLE GROWTH, (B) A MONETARY POLICY PROVIDING GREATER EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY, (C) A CONCERTED EFFORT TO COMPLETE THE TRANSITION FROM CUSTOMS UNION TO COMMON MARKET, (D) AN EFFECTIVE ENERGY POLICY, AND (D) AN ACTIVE POLICY TO STIMULATE INVESTMENTS AND INNOVATIVE ACTIONS.

3. TURNING TO THE EC'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS, GENSCHER SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS TO
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 13143 01 OF 02 060909Z

DEVELOP COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RENEWAL OF THE LOME CONVENTION WILL SOON BEGIN AND WILL BE CONCERNED WITH MAKING ADJUSTMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS ON POINTS OF DETAIL RATHER THAN WITH ALTERING THE BASIC NATURE OF EC-ACP RELATIONS. THE EC, HE CONTINUED, WILL TRY TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE ACP COUNTRIES "THAT THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF COOPERATION IS TO SERVE PEOPLE AND TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND WANT." HE SINGLED OUT THE PROMOTION OF DIRECT INVESTMENT IN THE ACP COUNTRIES AS AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF FUTURE COOPERATION AND MENTIONED OBLIQUELY THE IMPORTANCE OF SOME KIND OF INVESTMENT GUARANTEE. GENSCHER SAID THAT THE PRESENT CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EC AND SOUTHRN AND EASTERN MEDITRRANEAN COUNTRIES COULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED THROUGH THE CONVENING OF COOPERATION COUNCILS AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, A PROCESS WHICH HE HOPES WILL BEGIN LATER THIS YEAR.

4. TIRNING TO THE EC-NINE ACTING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION, GENSCHER REITERATED THE INTENTION OF THE MEMBER STATES TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP COORDINATED POSITIONS ON A

NUMBER OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES (E.G., CSCE, SOUTHERN AFRICA, UN, AND MIDDLE EAST). HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE EC-NINE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO COUNTER--IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES--ANY ATTEMPT BY NON-AFRICAN POWERS TO ESTABLISH HEGEMONY IN AFRICA.

5. GENSCHER SAID THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY WILL TRY TO GIVE THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE NEW IMPETUS. COMPLAINING THAT LITTLE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE DIALOGUE TO DATE, GENSCHER SAID THAT "THERE ARE GREAT POSSIBILITIES AND AN URGENT NEED FOR COOPERATION. BOTH SIDES MUST PLACE THIS INTERDEPENDENCE ON THE STABLE BASIS OF LONG-TERM, COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION." HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THERE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 BRUSSE 13143 01 OF 02 060909Z

"MANY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES" WHICH COULD INHIBIT REALIZATION OF THE DIALOGUE'S FULL POTENTIAL.

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 13143 02 OF 02 061628Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 13143

CORRECTED COPY --LN 1 PARA 8 ADDED

6. ON EC ENLARGEMENT, GENSCHER SAID THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY WILL SEEK TO (A) CONCLUDE THIS YEAR THE BULK OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ACCESSION TALKS WITH GREECE, (B) OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, AND (C) CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR OPENING FORMAL ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE SECOND EC ENLARGEMENT, HE DENIED THAT THESE ARE INSURMOUNTABLE, NOTING THEY SHOULD BE TACKLED PRIOR TO THE ENTRY OF GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL AND WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLVED EVEN IF NEW APPLICANTS WERE NOT KNOCKING AT THE COMMUNITY'S DOOR. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL REFORM, GENSCHER SUGGESTED THAT EC COUNCIL DECISIONS COULD BE REACHED BY MAJORITY VOTE (THIS LATTER POINT WAS GREETED WITH LOUD APPLAUSE). FINALLY, HE SAID, ENLARGEMENT MUST NOT HINDER THE CONSTANT DEVELOPMENT OF EC RELATIONS WITH TURKEY: "IT SHOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, ACT AS AN INCENTIVE TO REVITALIZE THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 13143 02 OF 02 061628Z

TURKEY. THIS WILL BE A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY."

7. CONCLUDING HIS STATEMENT, GENSCHER WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE EP OF THE COMPLETION OF MEMBER STATE RATIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EP IN JUNE 1979. HE SAID THAT AN EP ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE WILL POTENTIALLY RESTORE THE DYNAMIC VIGOR OF THE EUROPEAN IDEA AND THAT WESTERN EUROPE WILL "...AT LONG LAST, CROSS THE THRESHOLD INTO A EUROPE OF CITIZENS."

8. EP REACTION TO GENSCHER'S STATEMENT WAS GENERALLY MIXED. WHILE WELCOMING THE POSITIVE ELEMENTS, MOST PARLIAMENTARIANS REITERATED THEIR VIEW THAT THE EC COUNCIL IS LONG ON PROMISES BUT SHORT ON ACTION. MP'S HOPED THAT THE COMMON STRATEGY TO BE WORKED OUT IN BREMEN AND LATER AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN WILL INDEED RESULT IN EFFECTIVE ACTION AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EC'S ECONOMIC GROWTH. ON ENLARGEMENT, A FEW SPEAKERS ARGUED IN FAVOR OF A TYPE OF MARSHALL PLAN FOR TRANSFERRING RESOURCES TO THE APPLICANT STATES AND THE LEAST DEVELOPED REGIONS IN THE EXISTING COMMUNITY AS PART OF A COMMON STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY. OTHERS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GENSCHER FAILED TO MENTION SUCH ISSUES AS THE NEED FOR A COMMON FISHERIES POLICY OR THE STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EC-NINE AND THE EP. REPLYING TO THE DEBATE, GENSCHER REITERATED, INTER ALIA, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR MONETARY STABILITY. HINTON

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